

Entertainment

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

Dick Gregory's Words No Laughing Matter

CHICAGO:—There are times when the words of comedian Dick Gregory elicit more thought than laughter. That was so when he filled the dual role of comic and commentator during the unfolding of the centerfold award dinner of the World Conference of Mayors. The event highlighted the third annual conference of the chief executives from around the world in the Windy City. It was a laid back black tie banquet change of pace between days of programs to develop strategies to strengthen trade, tourism and housing in cities and towns worldwide. The atmosphere was one of inspired awe, generated by a great collection of male and female mayors from many parts of the world, speaking different tongues, of different colors, culture, ways and worship but with one purpose, to strengthen the ties of kinship in a quest for

peace and a better way of life for the human race.

Dick Gregory's words were the ultimate examples of their role to pursue and attack the problems of people. "There's a different feeling here," he opened, "One of love, a feeling that I don't have to go through 40 thousand people to say hello. I wonder if you mayors know how important you are? I wonder if you understand you are the ones who had better see to it that there must not be any more wars? If you don't believe it, go back and look at what happened in Japan. When the big bombs were dropped they didn't drop them on the world leaders. They dropped them on mayors and their towns. If we go to the big war in the morning, the Prez already has a route out. They practice every day, but you mayors don't have a route out. The heads of state are

like fathers. Mayors are like mothers who carried the baby and felt the kicking. They know the pain. They know what the children are doing. You, the mayors know what these city people problems are all about. You mayors are in the same shape Black folks were until they came together and said to the powerful, "We have had enough." Today the entire world is going to hell listening to a lot of crazy rhetoric. It's funny that the only thing we have too much of are those which man cannot create. They never say we have too many guns, bullets, atomic bombs, nuclear plants and hate. So I say to you, when you return to your respective city you can and must make a difference."

The world Conference of Mayors was an unforgettable experience. It was an event of pomp and pride that will list well into the history of this time. The '87 confab is scheduled for China. Mayor Harold Washington was a gracious host and his city extended a hand with its heart in it to its distinguished visitors. Tuskegee's chief executive, Mayor Johnnie Ford, founder and pres. of the World Conference of Mayors, and Jim Cuffe U.S. and African entrepreneur, and international business consultant to the WMC, lifted every stone to insure the success of the vent. Ninety percent of its white contingent came from Canada while free Africa was standing for the largest single count. A luncheon speaker, Rev. Jesse Jackson left an unforgettable quotable line: "Apartheid is nazism's historic successor."

Write Notes:--Ossie Davis has decided to endorse Richard Berman for Congress. He's making his bid for Capitol Hill from W'chester's 20th Congressional district. Berman, who's not a part of

the biz as usual political clan, is intimately familiar with the issues affecting the lives of the strugglers...Sonny Carson, a B'klyn activist before it became headline material, has a \$7-million project on the front burner. It will house 104 homeless families on Malcolm X Blvd and become a reality as soon as the proper authority signs off giving Housing Preservation Authority okay...Charming Luesette S. Howell, sec'y general, Liberia, is recuperating in the US. She is being pushed about in a wheel chair after a foot beautifying and comfort operation...Francine Everette, who has retained the beauty that captured the heart of the late Rex Ingram and H'wood and B'way contracts, is bright eyed and good spirited after the removal of two cataracts. However she has retired her office associate position at Harlem Hosp...Eddie Durham hit 80 on the 13th. He's the musical genius behind "One O'Clock Jump, "In the Mood," and "I don't Want to Set The World On Fire" which is now being used as the avant garde award winning Channel -5 perfume commercial...Cries of unnecessary intrusion have greeted the House of representative's vote to bar colleges, universities or schools from receiving Education Dept. funding without proof of a student preventative drug program.

"The African."--Co-produced by WETA/Washington, D.C. and the British B'casting corp., "The Africans" will premiere over the Public B'casting System on Tuesday, October 7 at 9 pm EST. The production was filmed in sixteen African countries, France, England and the U.S. It is said to be the most comprehensive television study of Africa ever attempted. It went into production in '83 cost \$3.5

Gregory Hines Joins "Rebel Starburst 86"

With a few days before Saturday night's Rebel Starburst '86, the extravaganza moves into high gear with another superstar, Gregory Hines.

Hines joins Bill Cosby, Sammy Davis Jr., Rich Little, Lou Rawls, Charo, Joe

Williams, The Trieners, Jimmy "J.J." Walker, local comedy team Mario and Daniel and Master of Ceremonies, Pete Barbutti, for the gala event at UNLV's Thomas and Mack Center.

The show starts at 8:30 p.m. following a special



Gregory Hines

cocktail reception for \$100 ticketbuyers at 6:30 p.m. in the Thomas and Mack Center's Si Redd Room.

Tickets are \$100, \$30, \$20, and \$12.50. Senior citizens and military members receive a \$2.50 discount on the \$20 and \$12.50 tickets.

Tickets are available at the

Thomas and Mack Center box office, The Charleston Heights Bowl, Cinema Cade, Nellis Air Force Base, Allstate Tours, hotel shows reservation outlets and all Ticketron locations.

For more information, call 739-3900, or charge through the new toll-free Teletron number at 1-800-922-2128.

million and is a series view of Africa from the inside according to executive producers Charles Hobson, WETA and David Harrison of the BBC. The noted African scholar professor, Ali A. Mazrui, is the presenter of the nine one-hour programs. He is also the author of more than a dozen books about the continent, and professor at the Universities of Michigan and Jos in Nigeria. The production explores what Mazrui terms, "Africa's triple heritage."...The Johnson Products Co.'s new theme is: "I'd rather do it myself." So it's supposedly in-house for its \$6-million plus account rather than Burrell Adv. Agency...Jennifer Patterson is surely prettier than her ex-heavyweight champ pop, Floyd. Why else would the

Ford agency be preparing her for main line modeling assignments?...The Nat'l Institute Against Prejudice and Violence has scheduled its first Nat'l Conference on Prejudice and Violence in America for Sept. 15 in Crystal City, Va. Senator Birch E. Bayh is chair of this org. and NYPD Comm. Ben Ward is one of the distinguished members of the board. Harry Belafonte, Ed Brooke, Mayor Tom Bradley, Marlene A. Young, Percy Sutton and Drew S. Days III are among the outstanding members making up the advisory board...Whoopi Goldberg is reportedly veddy happy about her change of pace co-star role in "Burglar"... STAY LOOSE...Billy Rowe is a syndicated columnist.

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